

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] Air or other environmental specimen is drawn (via a vacuum) into a collector 102 via an inlet 104. Upon entering the collector 102, the specimen passes through a concentrator ~~105~~ 104 and a second stage impactor 106. The impactor 106 serves to separate particles from the airflow and provide sample deposits 108 on a transport tape 120 (described further below) through a number of impaction nozzles 106'. The air collection portion so configured has a high throughput and high collection efficiency. Thus, a high concentration of dry particles are withdrawn from the environment and deposited on a small area of the tape 120 as samples 108, as shown. The collector 102 therefore collects particulate agents from the environment, such as biological agents and chemical agents that are attached to particles (such as residue of explosive material in the earth left by mine placement). Thus, samples 108 are not collected or transported in a liquid state, thus avoiding freezing, spoiling, etc. In addition, samples 108 deposited on the tape 120 are extremely thin, which is advantageous when introduced into the extraction region of the mass analyzer, as described further below.